

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 16. (cancelled)

17. (new) A device for containing and supplying loose materials, comprising:

a support frame (5);

a rigid container (2) mounted on the support frame (5) and exhibiting at least one opening (3);

means (4) for opening or closing the at least one opening (3);

the device exhibiting means (11) for rotating the container (2) on the support frame (5) about a rotation axis (x)

thereof; the container (2) being rotatably constrained to the support frame (5) and being mobile between at least a first position, in which the at least one opening (3) is located in an upper position for loading loose material into the

container (2), and at least a second position, in which the at least one opening is located in a lower position for unloading the loose material from the contained (2) characterized in that the container (2) exhibits a parallelepiped shape with rounded corners and wherein the at least one opening (3) extends at least partially along an access corner (10a) of the rounded

corners (10) of the container (2) and is parallel to the rotation axis (x) of the container (2).

18. (new) The device of claim 17, wherein the container (2) exhibits a cubic shape.

19. (new) The device of claim 17, comprising a plurality of openings (3) which are reciprocally aligned along the access corner (10a) of the container (2).

20. (new) The device of claim 17, wherein the means for rotating (11) comprise:  
a cogged crown wheel (12) which is solidly constrained to the container (2) and which is coaxially arranged with respect to the rotation axis (x), the crown wheel (12) being predisposed to enmesh with a cogged pinion (13) which is activated by means of a hollow shaft (19) by a motor (14) which is solidly constrained on an external support frame (50) on which the support frame (5) can be housed.

21. (new) The device of claim 20, comprising means for moving (17) the pinion (13) from an enmeshed position with the crown wheel (12), in which enmeshed position the motor (14) causes the container (2) to rotate, and a disengaged position from

the crown wheel (12), in which the container (2) is stationary.

22. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the means for moving (17) the pinion (13) comprise:

a support plate (21) rotatably coupled with the hollow shaft (19);

at least two actuators (22) having longitudinal axes which are parallel to a motion direction of the pinion (13), connected at an end thereof to the external support frame (50) and at another end thereof to the support plate (21).

23. (new) The device of claim 22, comprising means for blocking (18) the crown wheel (12).

24. (new) The device of claim 23, wherein the means for blocking (18) the crown wheel (12) comprise a cogged plate (23) associated to the external support frame (50) and mobile between an enmeshed position with the crown wheel (12) corresponding to a disengaged position with the pinion (13), and a disengaged position with the crown wheel (12), corresponding to an enmeshed position with the pinion (13).

25. (new) The device of claim 17, wherein the means (4) for opening or closing the at least one opening (3) comprise:

a small plate (25) mounted internally of the container (2) and mobile between a closed position, in which the small plate (25) closes the at least one opening (3), and an open position, in which the small plate (25) is displaced away from the at least one opening (3); and means for moving the small plate (25).

26. (new) The device of claim 25, wherein the means for moving the small plate (25) comprise:

a shaft (28) mounted in the container (2) at the access corner (10a) thereof and parallel to the access corner (10a); the small plate (25) being solidly constrained to the shaft (28); the shaft (28) being rotatable about a longitudinal axis (Y) thereof in order to displace the small plate (25) between the open position and the closed position; a mechanism (29) for rotating the shaft (28).

27. (new) The device of claim 26, wherein the mechanism (29) for rotating the shaft (28) comprises:

a fork (30) mounted transversally to the shaft (28) and an end (28a) of the shaft (28) which end (28a) is external of the container (2), the fork (30) being predisposed to interact with a first pivot (31) and a second pivot (32); the first pivot (31) being mounted on the external support frame (50) at a position corresponding to an upper position of

the at least one opening (3); the first pivot (31) being mobile between a distanced position from the container (2) and a close position to the container (2), and interfering with the fork (30) when the at least one opening (3) is located in the upper position and determining a displacement of the small plate (25) from the closed position to the open position; the second pivot (32) being mounted on the external support frame (50) at a lower position of the at least one opening (3); the second pivot (32) being mobile between a position in which it is distanced from the container (2) and a position in which it is close to the container (2), and interfering with the fork (30) when the at least one opening (3) is located in the lower position and determining a displacement of the small plate (25) from the closed position to the open position.

28. (new) The device of claim 26, comprising elastic return means (34) which act upon the shaft (28) to keep the small plate (25) in the closed position thereof.